

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 057448

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON U.S. KOREA POLICY

1. WOLFF SUBCOMMITTEE OF HIRC HELD PUBLIC HEARING ON FUTURE U.S. POLICY TOWARD KOREA MARCH 8. IN ADDITION TO CHAIRMAN, CONGRESSMEN YATRON, BURKE, AND GILMAN ATTENDED. WITNESSES WERE DAVID COLE, FORMER AID OFFICIAL AND CURRENTLY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, HARVARD INSTITUTE OF INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT; SUG WAN KANG, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, HARTWICK COLLEGE; AND BRUCE CUMINGS, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, SWARTHMORE COLLEGE.

2. COLE PROVIDED BALANCED PICTURE OF KOREAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTED ROK DECREASING RELIANCE ON U.S. AND GROWING ABILITY TO PROVIDE FOR ITS OWN DEFENSE. U.S. GROUND FORCES SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM KOREA GRADUALLY, BUT PRECIPITATE WITHDRAWAL AT THIS  
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PAGE 02 STATE 057448

TIME WOULD CONSTITUTE WRONG SIGNAL TO NORTH KOREA.

COLE SAW MAJOR PROBLEM IN ROK AS LACK OF MECHANISM FOR TRANSFERRING POLITICAL POWER.

3. KANG BASED HIS PRESENTATION ON PREMISE THAT ROOT CAUSE OF PROBLEMS IN KOREA IS SEPARATION OF TWO KOREAS. HE CLAIMED ALL KOREANS SHARE GENERAL UNHAPPINESS WITH

U.S. POLICY TOWARD KOREA AND LECTURED SUBCOMMITTEE ON OPPORTUNITY USG MISSED BY NOT SEEKING "AUSTRIAN SOLUTION" FOR KOREA FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II.

KANG ADVOCATED:

-- REMOVAL OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM ROK

-- WITHDRAW U.S. TROOPS (ABOUT 1980)

-- DENY NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO ROKG

-- U.S. EXCHANGE VISITORS WITH NORTH KOREA

-- U.S. RECIPROCATE NORTH KOREAN "COURTESIES"

-- U.S. GRADUALLY DISENGAGE FROM ROLE AS ROK ALLY

-- U.S. TAKE STEPS FOR UNIFICATION AND NEUTRALIZATION OF KOREA IN LONG TERM.

3. CUMINGS SPOKE ON NORTH KOREAN PERSPECTIVE OF KOREA PROBLEM AND STRESSED THAT NORTH HAS BECOME DANGEROUSLY ISOLATED FROM WORLD POLITICS. OTHER CUMINGS POINTS INCLUDED ASSUMPTION THAT U.S. HAS NO VITAL INTERESTS IN KOREA; NORTH HAS BETTER "NATIONALIST" CREDENTIALS THAN ROK; THERE IS LITTLE CHANCE OF "OVERT" NORTH KOREAN ATTACK; AND SOUTH KOREA CAN DEFEND ITSELF. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT USG MISSED OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE NORTH KOREAN POLICIES IN 1971 AND 1972 BY FAILURE TO RECIPROCATE NORTH KOREAN GESTURES TOWARD IMPROVED N-S CONTACTS. AS RESULT, NORTH KOREAN DOVES MUST TAKE BACK SEAT TO MILITARY-ORIENTED HAWKS.  
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PAGE 03 STATE 057448

4. SUBCOMMITTEE QUESTIONED ALL WITNESSES AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH, CONCENTRATING MOST CRITICAL REMARKS ON KANG AND CUMINGS; THEIR BACKGROUND AND EXPERTISE IN KOREAN AFFAIRS, AND, AS ONE MEMBER PUT IT, THEIR TENDENCY TO BLAME THE U.S. FOR ALL THE EVENTS OF RECENT KOREAN HISTORY. KISSINGER

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